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# 'Emerald Sea' shore juniper

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# 'Emerald Sea' shore juniper

Shore juniper is well suited for planting on sand dunes near the seashore where other junipers do not grow successfully. It has good salt tolerance and grows well in sandy soils.

'Emerald Sea' is often used for mass or border plantings around buildings and as foreground for taller plant groups. It is also a versatile ground cover plant for steep banks around buildings, parks, and playgrounds.

## Description

'Emerald Sea' shore juniper (*Juniperus conferta*) is a low-growing or trailing evergreen shrub about 1 foot high. Its pale evergreen needles are greenish blue, softer than most junipers, and one-half to 1 inch long. The needles retain their blue-green color very well during the winter, and mass plantings produce a dense and uniform ground cover.

The plant collection that led to the release of 'Emerald Sea' was made in 1967 by the Agricultural Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The plants were collected on low coastal sand dunes near Honshu, Japan. Since 1968, this collection has been evaluated in numerous conservation plantings along the mid-Atlantic coast. It was cooperatively released to commercial producers by the Soil Conservation Service and Agricultural Research Service in 1972.

## Suitability

'Emerald Sea' has proved to be winter hardy in areas where the average low temperature is between -10° and 0°F. It is climatically adapted to the coast from Maine to North Carolina, but inland it will grow even farther south. (See the adaptation map.)

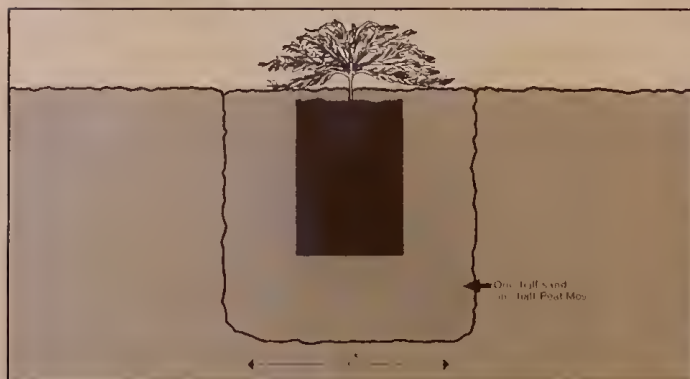
Shore juniper grows in medium-fertile soils that are slightly acid and loamy or sandy, and it has good to excellent drought tolerance. It requires well-drained soils and grows best in full sun. For sandy soils in exposed locations like the seashore, 'Emerald Sea' is an excellent plant.

## Establishment

For transplanting, plants that are 1 or 2 years old are desirable. One-year-old stock usually survives better on difficult sites.

Even though shore juniper is well adapted to harsh sites like the seashore, you must plant it with care. Use

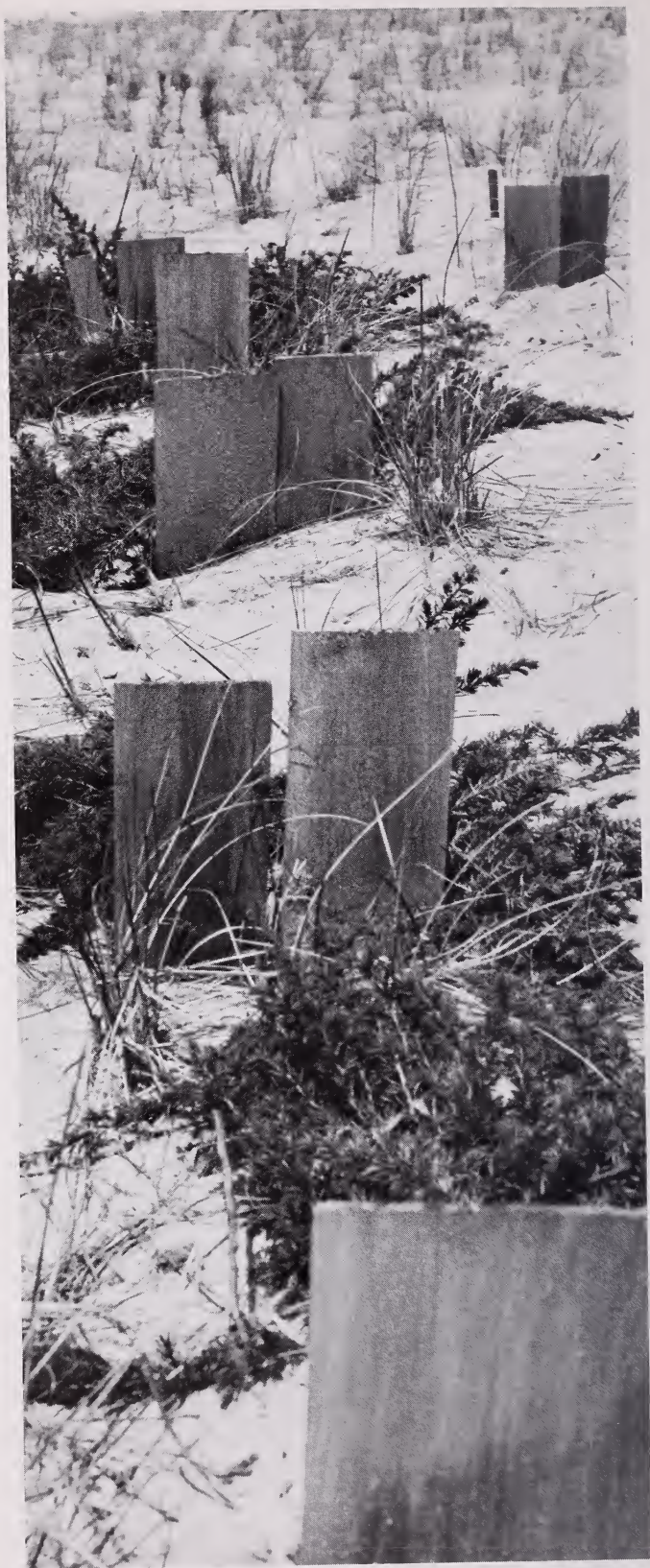




'Emerald Sea' is often used for mass or border plantings around buildings.



'Emerald Sea' spreads well on sandy soils.



*Provide some protection on sand dune plantings. These 2-year-old plants have been protected with cedar shingles since transplanting.*

only container-grown plants. When it is planted on 2-foot centers and well fertilized and mulched, it will provide full ground cover in 2 years.

If you plant 'Emerald Sea' on sand dunes, protect it from wind during the first and second year and add organic matter to the planting hole. See the drawing that shows how to plant shore juniper.

## **Propagation**

You should take terminal cuttings of 'Emerald Sea' shore juniper during January or early February. The previous season's growth is best for cuttings. They should be one-eighth inch or more in diameter and 5 or 6 inches long. You can keep the material in cool moist storage but it should be used as soon as possible.

The best rooting medium is coarse quartz sand. Soil temperature should be between 70° and 79°F and air temperature between 50° and 59°F. Use an automatic mist system to keep the roots moist and maintain adequate humidity around the top of the cuttings. Shade the rooting bench from direct sun and use a plant hormone to stimulate rapid root growth.

Under these conditions, 'Emerald Sea' cuttings will root adequately for potting within 8 to 12 weeks. The rooted plants can be planted in containers with a mixture of perlite, peat moss, and topsoil. Protect the potted plants until they have adapted to the change and begun to grow again. This usually takes 2 or 3 weeks.

## **Availability**

For more information on where to buy plants of 'Emerald Sea' and how to use and plant them, contact your local SCS office. It is listed in your telephone directory under U.S. Government, Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service. Assistance is available without regard to race, creed, color, sex, or national origin.



